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USSR-INDIA: Possible Visit by Chernenko

██████████ say that General Secretary Chernenko will visit India just before the elections that must be held by early next year, if it is necessary to improve Prime Minister Gandhi's reelection prospects. ██████████ If Gandhi's reelection seems likely, however, Chernenko probably will not make the visit until later. ██████████ ██████████ also say that Moscow has made a large financial allocation for propaganda and for visits by other high-level Soviets to help get Gandhi reelected. ██████████

Comment: Moscow wants Gandhi to win because it is convinced that no other Indian politician is as well disposed toward the USSR. Gandhi ██████████ believes that a successful visit by Chernenko would help her electoral chances. Former General Secretary Andropov ██████████ was also prepared to visit India to help Gandhi, but his failing health prevented the trip. The timing of Defense Minister Ustinov's recent trip there ██████████ was advanced primarily because Andropov was unable to go. ██████████